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D/C

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL SHEET

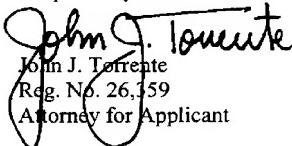
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| TO: | FROM: | FAX RECEIVED |
| Examiner Nguyen/Art Unit 2851 | John J. Torrente | |
| COMPANY: | DATE: | APR 15 2003 |
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| (703) 305-2771 | B422-162 | |
| RE: | YOUR REFERENCE NUMBER: | |
| Response to Office Action | 09/881,375 | |

URGENT FOR REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY PLEASE RECYCLE

NOTES/COMMENTS

We are forwarding herewith: Facsimile Transmittal Cover Sheet and Response to Office Action Under 37 CFR § 1.121(a) in the application of Tsuyoshi Fukuda for CAMERA filed June 14, 2001; in Group 2851.

Respectfully submitted,


John J. Torrente
Reg. No. 26,159
Attorney for Applicant

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, on April 15, 2003.

John J. Torrente

Signature

PATENT
B422-162

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Tsuyoshi Fukuda

Serial No.: 09/881,375 ✓

For : CAMERA

Filed : June 14, 2001

Examiner: Michelle Nguyen

Art Unit : 2851

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APR 15 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.121(a)

This paper is being submitted in response to the non-final office action mailed in the above-captioned continued application on January 15, 2003. Claims 1-11 are pending. The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1 and 3-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Furuya et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,828,919) taken in view of Stern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,393,224). The Examiner has objected to applicant's claims 2 and 8-11 as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider her position with respect to claims 1 and 3-7 in the application.

In the camera of the present invention, a lens mount and an image taking device designed to photo-electrically convert received light are mounted on a central main body. The

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central main body is coupled to at least one of a front chassis forming the front portion of the camera and a rear chassis forming the rear portion of the camera, and the image taking device is located between the front chassis and the rear chassis. With this type of construction, a camera can be realized, which can accurately set a flange back and is resistant to static pressure. Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

The Examiner stated that the Furuya et al. patent discloses a camera including "a front chassis (body plate 41) which forms a front portion of a main body of the camera (see Fig. 9); a rear chassis (combined camera body 44 and camera body 54) which forms a rear portion of the main body of the camera and is coupled to the body plate 41 (see Col. 9, lines 19-23, Figs. 8-10); a lens mount (lens barrel 2) (see Col. 2, line 66 to Col. 3, line 2, Fig. 9)" and "an image taking device (film) disposed between the body plate 41 and the camera body 54 (see Col. 6, lines 28-35)."

In the camera of Furuya et al., as shown in FIG. 8, film is placed between the camera body 44, which is coupled to the front chassis (i.e., the body plate 41) and camera body 54. However, as noted by the Examiner, the reference teaches that the rear chassis is formed by the combination of the camera body 44 and the camera body 54. Therefore, the film is positioned within the rear chassis, and not between the front chassis (body plate 41) and rear chassis (camera bodies 44 and 54) as presently claimed.

The Examiner also states that Furuya et al. teaches a camera with a "a central main body member (mirror box 43) on which the lens barrel 2 (via the body plate 41) and the film (via the camera body 44) are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of the body plate 41 and the camera body 44 (see Fig. 9)." Consistently with the Examiner's reference to the mirror box 43 as a central main body member, the Furuya et al. device does teach the mirror

box 43 fixed to the front chassis, i.e. the body plate 41, as shown in FIGS. 8 and 9. However, Furuya et al. fails to teach or disclose that the lens barrel 2 is mounted on the central main body member (mirror box 43). Accordingly, the Furuya et al. patent fails to teach or suggest use of a central main body member on which a lens mount and an image taking device are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of a front and rear main body member.

The Stern et al. reference cited by the Examiner adds nothing to change this conclusion. Particularly, the Stern et al. patent was cited by the Examiner for its teaching of replacing a conventional film cartridge with e-film cartridge, thereby converting a conventional camera to an electronic imaging camera. Applicant submits that a camera having the combined features of Furuya et al. and Stern et al. as suggested by the Examiner still would not teach a camera having an image taking device disposed between the front chassis and the rear chassis and a central main body member on which the lens mount and image taking device are mounted and which is coupled to at least one of said front and rear chassis.

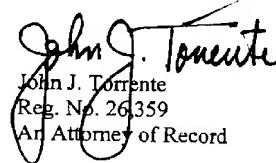
In view of the above, neither of the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or taken in combination, teach or suggest a camera having the above features, as claimed in applicant's independent claim 1. Claims 2-11, each of which depend from claim 1, are also submitted as patentable for at least the same reasons as set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Therefore, claims 1-11 are all submitted as being patentable based upon the cited references failing to disclose or suggest the content of the claims within the meaning of Section 103. In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would expedite consideration of this application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicant's counsel at (212) 682-9640.

Dated: April 15, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


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